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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 15/05/2006	Accident number: 200
Accident time: 13:55	Accident Date: 11/10/1993
Where it occurred: Phum Sdao(u) Village, Battambang Province	Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: 18/10/1993
ID original source: JAH/GF	Name of source: CMAC
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: PMN-2 AP blast	Ground condition: route/path
Date record created: 14/02/2004	Date last modified: 14/02/2004
No of victims: 2	No of documents: 2

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: MF: M1096	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

no independent investigation available (?)

inadequate communications (?)

mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)

inadequate area marking (?)

Accident report

An internal investigation was carried out by an expatriate technical advisor and found on file in January 1999. This investigation did not include a summary of the events surrounding the accident. However, a brief report following an investigation by UNTAC Military Police was attached to Victim No.1's compensation claim. This stated that the two victims were walking "through a cleared area to the rest area at the completion of their day's work. They followed a path which was used daily.... the evidence tends to suggest that the mine was laid after

clearance by unknown persons". An attached document added that the area where the accident occurred (at 13:10) had been cleared "a month back".

The country MAC investigator interviewed "all concerned" and was still in "doubt as to where the mine came from". He found no evidence to support the idea that this was a case of remining.

The Site Supervisor's version of events varies by adding that Victim No.2 "jumped out of the way and was miraculously uninjured".

The Platoon Supervisor added that the people helping the victims "prodded their way around the victims and then evacuated the casualties". He added that he thought the mine had been laid on the last rest day.

The Platoon Commander added that he had just blown the whistle to indicate that it was time to prepare to destroy the mines found that day. He said he took a detector and prodger to clear around the casualties.

Victim No.2 stated that the deminers now felt unsafe in cleared areas and wanted sentries to guard them.

Conclusion

The investigator concluded that the accident showed "that no method of clearance is 100% efficient".

Recommendations

The investigator recommended that the staff be commended for their handling of the accident; that the victim be compensated; that routes into mined areas be marked and the markings left until all work is over; that routes into mined areas be checked with a detector before use each time; that operations must cease when "there are no communications". [The last implies a communications problem that was not explained.]

Victim Report

Victim number: 255	Name: Name removed
Age: 27	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: US\$1,080	Time to hospital: 2 hours 50 minutes
Protection issued: Safety spectacles	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

minor Face

minor Hand

severe Leg

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Below knee

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

The military medical Officer at Malbatt stated that he saw both victims on the day of the accident at 16:00 (at Ratnak Mondul hospital). He said that Victim No.1 had the lower part of his left leg "traumatically amputated." The victim also had injuries to his "upper right leg" and knee and right hand" (fragmentation).

Both victims were flown to an ICRC Hospital, arriving at 16:45.

Compensation of US\$1,080 (36% x 30 x \$120) was awarded to Victim No.1 on 1st December 1993.

The ICRC surgeon at the Mongkol Borei hospital listed Victim No.1's injuries as: "1) amputation left leg below knee; 2) open 3° fracture tibia right; 3) Patella fracture (open) right knee; 4) multiple superficial skin injuries; 5) haemorrhagic shock."

Victim Report

Victim number: 256	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: not made available	Time to hospital: 2 hours 5 minutes
Protection issued: Safety spectacles	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

minor Arm

minor Body

minor Leg

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

The military medical Officer at Malbatt stated that he saw both victims on the day of the accident at 16:00 (at Ratnak Mondul hospital). He said that Victim No.2 had superficial burns on his back and the rear of his right thigh and right arm.

He was given pain killers and discharged.

Both victims were flown to an ICRC Hospital, arriving at 16:45.

A "case summary" attached to the insurance claim stated that Victim No.2 "suffered minor injuries".

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Field control inadequacy*" because the victim's were apparently injured by a mine that had been missed during routine clearance. This mine has a relatively large metal content and should have been found if the deminers had been working properly using an appropriate method.

Related papers

A "case summary" attached to the insurance claim stated that the victim was leaving his place of work as a deminer at 13:55 when he "stepped on a mine". His "left leg was blown-off below the knee. He also suffered fractures on his right leg...."

A record of payment showed that Victim No.1 was a deminer and was paid US\$160 per month at that time.

His "Service Agreement" was on file along with a photograph taken at an unspecified time during treatment showing his left leg missing about 10cm above the ankle and his face heavily bandaged.